In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

51. (Currently amended) A monoclonal antibody or active fragment ~~thereof~~ of the monoclonal antibody that specifically reacts with a FAS ligand, wherein the antibody is produced by any one of hybridoma cell lines deposited as Accession Nos. FERM BP-5044 (Hybridoma NOKI), FERM BP-5045 (Hybridoma NOK2), FERM BP-5046 (Hybridoma NOH3), FERM BP-5047 (Hybridoma NOK4), FERM BP-5048 (Hybridoma NOK5) and FERM BP-5334 (Hybridoma KAY-10) in National Institute of Bioscience and Hyman technology Agency of Industrial Science and Technology and said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits apoptosis more than a control FAS-Ig chimera at a concentration of 0.01-8 $\mu$gml.

Claim 52 (Canceled herein).

53. (Currently amended) The monoclonal antibody or active fragment ~~thereof~~of the monoclonal antibody according to claim 51 wherein the antibody of fragment can inhibit the apoptosis of Fas expressing cells induced by a Fas ligand at an apoptosis inhibition rate of at least 90%, said apoptosis inhibition rate meaning a survival rate of target cells, to which an antibody has been added, in a cytotoxic reaction test in which a soluble Fas ligand contained in a 12-fold dilution of a culture supernatant of Fas ligand gene transsfected cells is used as an effector molecule, and ~~on the other hand,~~ Fas gene-transfected cells are used as target cells, and both are reacted in a reaction system of 100 $\mu$l in a 96-well plate to determine the survival rate of the target cells after 16 hours usuing a reagent for detecting viable cell numbers.

54. (Previously amended) The monoclonal antibody or the active fragment thereof according to claim 59, wherein the survival rate of the target cells can be enhanced to at least

90% when the soluble Fas ligand contained in the 12-fold dilution of the culture supernatant of the Fas ligand gene-transfected cells is used as the effector molecule in the amount of 25 $\mu$l in terms of such a dilution, the Fas gene-transfected cells (Fas/WR19lL) are used as the target cells in an amount of 50 $\mu$l in terms of its solution at a concentration 2 x $10^5$ cells/ml, and a culture supernatant of the hybridoma containing said monoclonal antibody is used in an amount of 25 $\mu$l to mix all these components with one another, thereby conducting a reaction at 37°C for 16 hours.

55. (Currently amended) The monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 51 wherein with respect to the physiological reaction between the Fas ligand and Fas, the antibody can inhibit a physiological reaction of a human Fas ligand, but not inhibit a physiological reaction of a mouse Fas ligand.

56. (Currently amended) The monoclonal antibody or the fragment thereof according to claim ~~61~~51, which can affinity-purify a Fas ligand present in a culture supernatant of Fas ligand-expressed cells.

57. (Currently amended) The monoclonal antibody or the fragment thereof according to claim ~~61~~51, which can immunoprecipitate Fas ligand molecules on Fas ligand-expressed cell surfaces or soluble Fas ligand molecules secreted in a culture solution.

58. (Currently amended) A method of detecting a Fas ligand in a solution, which comprises combining a plurality of monoclonal antibodies against Fas ligand according to claim ~~61~~51.

59. (Currently amended) The detection method according to claim ~~64~~58, wherein one of the ~~plural~~ monoclonal antibodies is immobilized on a carrier, ~~the other~~another monoclonal antibody is labeled with a labeled compound, the carrier on which the monoclonal antibody has been immobilized is brought into contact with a solution of a specimen which is considered to contain a Fas ligand, thereby absorbing the specimen, and the absorbed specimen is detected by the monoclonal antibody labeled with the labeled compound.

60. (Currently amended) The detection method according to claim ~~65~~59, wherein a purified monoclonal antibody of IgM type is immobilized on a carrier, and a Fas ligand in a solution is detected by a biotin-labeled monoclonal antibody of IgG type.

61. (Currently amended) A kit for use in detecting a Fas ligand, comprising in combination a plurality of monoclonal antibodies against Fas ligand according to claim ~~61~~55.

62. (Currently amended) The monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof according to claim ~~61~~55, which can affinity purify a Fas ligand present in a culture supernatant of Fas ligand-expressed cells.

Claims 63-72 (Cancelled).

73. (Previously amended) A monoclonal antibody which specifically reacts with a Fas ligand, or an active fragment ~~thereof~~ of the monoclonal antibody, wherein the antibody is produced by a process comprising the steps of (1) immunosensitizing an animal, which does not express a functional Fas molecule, with a Fas ligand molecule or Fas ligand-expressing cells, (2) preparing antibody-producing cells from the immunosensitized animal to form a suspension of the antibody-producing cells, (3) mixing the suspension of the antibody-producing cells with

myeloma cells to fuse both cells, (4) diluting the fused cells with a medium that does not favor unfused myeloma cells so that the fused cells are cultured, thereby sorting hybridomas produced by the fusion of the antibody-producing cells with the myeloma cells, (5) determining whether antibodies secreted in a culture supernatant containing the hybridomas are against the desired antigen ~~or not using, as an indicator the fact that the antibodies inhibit the attack of a Fas ligand present in a supernatant of Fas ligand-expressed COS cells against Fas-expressed cells~~, (6) cloning a series of cells in culture wells in which cells secreting the desired antibodies exist, (7) selecting a clone from which the desired antibody is secreted, (8) conducting a cloning again to establish a hybridoma clone which secretes monoclonal antibody against antigen, and (9) preparing the monoclonal antibody from a culture supernatant of the hybridoma or ascites fluid obtained by intraperitoneally administering the hybridoma to a mouse.

Claim 74 (Currently amended). The monoclonal antibody or the active fragment thereof according to claim ~~7973~~, wherein the animal is a rodent belonging to MRL 1pr/1prmice.

Claim 75 (Currently amended). The monoclonal antibody or the active fragment thereof according to claim ~~7973~~, wherein the animal is a rodent belonging to MRL gld mice.

Claims 76-153 (Cancelled).

Claim 154 (Currently amended). A process for producing monoclonal antibodies specifically reacting with a FAS ligand according to claim 51 , which comprises the steps of (1) immunosensitizing an animal, which does not express a functional Fas molecule, with a Fas ligand molecule or Fas ligand-expressing cells, (2) preparing antibody-producing cells from the immunosensitized animal to form a suspension of the antibody-producing cells, (3) mixing the suspension of the antibody-producing cells with myeloma cells to fuse both cells, (4) diluting the

fused cells with a medium that does not favor unfused myeloma cells so that the fused cells are cultured, thereby sorting hybridomas produced by the fusion of the antibody-producing cells with the myeloma cells, (5) determining whether antibodies secreted in a culture supernatant containing the hybridomas are against the desired antigen ~~or not using, as an indicator the fact that the antibodies inhibit the attack of a Fas ligand present in a supernatant of Fas ligand-expressed COS cells against Fas-expressed cells~~, (6) cloning a series of cells in culture wells in which cells secreting the desired antibodies exist, (7) selecting a clone from which the desired antibody is secreted, (8) conducting a cloning again to establish a hybridoma clone which secretes monoclonal antibody against antigen, and (9) preparing the monoclonal antibody from a culture supernatant of the hybridoma or ascites fluid obtained by intraperitoneally administering the hybridoma to a mouse.